

News from Ed Markey

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Rep. Markey Calls on FDA to Create User-Friendly Database of Drug Side Effects Information for Consumers and Healthcare Professionals

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a Senior Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, today sent a letter to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urging the FDA to create an interactive, user-friendly database where consumers and healthcare professionals can find complete, accurate and timely information about the known side effects of drugs on the market and recently removed from the market.

Over the past year, many concerns have been raised about the side effects of FDA approved drugs on the market. The extensive media attention focused on the potential side effects and complications associated with drugs like Vioxx, Celebrex, naproxen, ibuprofen, Tysabri, and Bextra, has the potential to be extremely confusing and anxiety producing for both consumers and healthcare professionals.

Rep. Markey said, “Consumers and healthcare professionals alike are confused by the new information about the dangerous side effects of FDA approved drugs. Since the FDA is the place the public turns when they have questions about the safety or efficacy of drugs, the FDA has a responsibility to provide the public with complete, accurate and timely information about all drugs on the market and drugs that have been recently removed from the market.”

Rep. Markey said, “While all healthcare decisions need to be made in conjunction with a healthcare professional, in order for consumers to take personal responsibility for their healthcare, they need to have access to complete and accurate information about the potential side effects of drugs on the market.”

For more information on Rep. Markey’s work on FDA reform and copies of the letters sent to the FDA, please go to <http://www.house.gov/markey/healthgen.htm>

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